

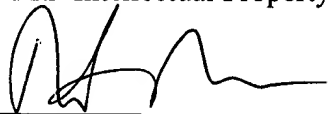
Claims 1-12 and 14-30 are not obvious in view of the cited references because Adams is not prior art. Adams has a filing date of June 30, 1998, which is less than one month prior to the July 28, 1998 filing date of the present application. The invention recited in the pending claims was reduced to practice prior to the June 30, 1998 filing date of Adams. Enclosed are declarations, signed by the inventors of the present application, stating that the invention was embodied in one or more products that existed before June 30, 1998. Also enclosed are two documents, dated prior to June 30, 1998, that support the inventors' declarations. Accordingly, claims 1-12 and 14-30 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration of the subject application and its allowance is kindly requested. If questions remain regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Gerard Duperrouzel et al.

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Enclosures:

Rule 131 Declaration of Brian Gerard Duperrouzel w/attachments

Rule 131 Declaration of Angus McNab Chassels IV w/attachments

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